



NEWS RELEASE

07-171

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2007
District: 8- INLAND EMPIRE
Contact: Traci Peterson
Phone: (909) 383-6733 (work)
(909) 289-8827 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUST IN TIME FOR MEMORIAL DAY... CALTRANS REOPENS INTERSTATE 40

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces the reopening of Interstate 40 (I-40) on Thursday, May 24, 2007. The westbound lanes were closed early 2007 to facilitate the replacement of six damaged bridges. This will complete the final phase of a project to replace 12 bridges on Interstate 40. Six bridges on the eastbound I-40 were replaced Fall 2006.

The 12 damaged bridges were discovered in early 2006 during Caltrans' biannual bridge inspection. Caltrans' Structural Maintenance inspection teams have been performing these inspections since the 1930's to ensure the safety of California's motoring population. Upon this discovery, Caltrans obtained an emergency contract to secure and replace the bridges. In an amazing feat of construction, Caltrans' and the contractor, Skanska were able to replace all 12 bridges, from discovery to completion in 14 months. A job of this magnitude would typically take two to three years to complete. This was accomplished, in part, due to the innovative construction products Caltrans' Structure design division utilized. Precast, pre-stressed girders and the first precast abutment used in road construction in California allowed the contractor to perform the required replacement at an unthinkable pace.

The reopening of the westbound lanes on Monday allowed the contractor the ability to restore the eastbound lanes to their original status. All lanes, both eastbound and westbound, will be open to the motoring public in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Interstate 40 is a vital transportation link for interstate commerce and recreational motorists heading to Laughlin, the Colorado River and beyond.

Caltrans would like to thank motorists for their patience and support during the Interstate 40 Bridge Replacement project. Caltrans asks that motorists please be aware of the construction area and always make a point to ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE***.

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NEWS RELEASE



Demolition of westbound Fortress Wash Bridge 2/9/07



Precast, pre-stressed girders at eastbound Chuckwalla Wash Bridge 10/30/06



CHP escort at newly opened westbound Marble Wash Bridge 4/26/07

For more information or digital photos, contact Traci Peterson, Caltrans Public Affairs

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